

August 5, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Slams GOP Energy Rhetoric

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Slams GOP Energy Rhetoric, Highlights Democratic Energy Solutions

Democratic proposals will bring real relief to Americans, while Republicans Push Big Oil's energy policies that will do nothing to immediately reduce gas prices

Washington, DC - With gas prices averaging nearly \$4.00 per gallon, Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today slammed House Republicans for empty rhetoric while American families struggle with skyrocketing energy costs.

"Today a mere handful of Republicans took to the House floor to offer the American people more rhetoric instead of solutions," Rep. Slaughter said. "Quite simply, this is a hoax. For months Democrats have offered real solutions to our energy challenges that Republicans voted against time and time again. Instead of offering more head-in-the-sand rhetoric, Republicans should join with Democrats to lower gas prices within 10 days and help create a clean energy future."

In the past few months, House Republicans have voted against several key proposals to lower energy costs and put America on track to a clean energy future. Most House Republicans voted against forcing oil companies to drill on the 68 million acres they already control, new investments in renewable energy, increasing vehicle fuel efficiency standards, making mass transit more affordable, and releasing oil from the government's stockpile to lower gas prices. When it comes to energy policy, Republicans are once again promoting the interests of Big Oil and the Bush Administration that has resulted in \$4 a gallon gasoline.

"If Republicans had joined Democrats in releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve last month, we would already be seeing lower gas prices. Republicans had the choice to lower gas prices now or hope that gas prices will be lower in 10 years: they chose 10 years," said Rep. Slaughter. "Republicans in Congress are once again siding with Big Oil and the Bush Administration on energy policy, when it's their energy policy over the last 8 years that has brought us \$4 a gallon gasoline in the first place."

Background:

THE DEMOCRATIC ENERGY PLAN: DEMOCRATS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOWER GAS PRICES

After years of Republican inaction, the Democratic-led Congress is moving America in a New Direction for Energy Independence to lower gas prices, make America more secure, create green jobs, and reduce global warming.

Democrats have a comprehensive strategy to provide immediate relief for families struggling with skyrocketing gas prices, increase domestic energy supply, and expand our economy.

To Provide Immediate Relief from High Gas Prices, the Democratic Plan Calls for:

- Releasing some oil from the taxpayer-funded Strategic Petroleum Reserve
- Helping Americans struggling with high energy prices by providing economic stimulus recovery rebates and increasing funding for home heating assistance
- Cracking down on price gouging and oil cartel price fixing
- Further closing the Enron Loophole on Wall Street speculators

To Increase Supply, Democrats are calling for:

- Extending Renewable Energy tax credits for American wind, solar, geothermal and hydro
- Expanding American-grown bio-fuels
- Requiring and promoting energy-efficient vehicles, buildings, homes, and appliances
- Requiring responsible drilling by forcing Big Oil to "use it or lose it" on federal leases
- Rewarding conservation
- Building a smart, reliable energy grid

To Expand Our Economy, the Democratic Plan Calls for:

- Boosting American energy innovation and research
- Training a "green collar workforce" for millions of high-paying jobs

UNDER DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP, THIS CONGRESS HAS ENACTED SEVERAL KEY ENERGY PROPOSALS INTO LAW INCLUDING:

- The first new vehicle fuel efficiency standards in 32 years, saving up to \$1,000 in gas per car per year;
- An historic commitment to American-grown biofuels, which are keeping gas prices 15% lower now than they would otherwise as a result of blended fuels;
- Action to impact record gas prices by suspending oil purchasing for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; and
- Recovery Rebates to help Americans struggling with rising prices, including gas, with a check of \$600 or more.

The House of Representatives has passed:

- A Renewable Energy Tax Credit package that will create and retain hundreds of thousands of jobs and give a crucial boost to the next generation of American energy sources;
- New tools and authority to crack down on oil cartel price fixing, price gouging by retailers and oil companies, and market manipulation by speculators; and
- Reduced commuter rail and bus fares and expanded service, through grants to mass transit authorities

THE GOP ENERGY PLAN: 'None of the Above'

The New Direction Congress led by Democrats has offered real solutions to bring down energy costs, promote renewable fuels and energy efficiency, and promote oil production right here in America.

But a majority of Congressional Republicans have voted NO each time. Most Republicans have voted no on the following:

- NO to renewable energy
- NO to the first new vehicle efficiency standards in 32 years-saving \$1,000 in fuel costs per car per year
- NO to reducing transit fares for commuter rail and buses
- NO to recouping royalties the oil companies failed to pay to taxpayers
- NO to repealing unnecessary subsidies for the top five oil companies, raking in record profits
- NO to expanded drilling in Alaska's Energy Reserve
- NO to requiring oil companies to drill on 68 million acres they already control nationwide
- NO to lowering gas prices immediately by releasing a small portion of the government oil stockpile
- NO to cracking down on gas price gouging
- NO to curbing excessive speculation in the energy futures markets

What IS the Republican plan?

- More public resources going to oil companies that won't or can't drill on the millions of acres they already control
- A 6th year of bigger profits for oil companies
- Oil derricks off more of our pristine beaches and in our last wildlife preserves

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